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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" They cannot be dispensed with where discussion is necessary." (Laughter.)

Introduction of a shortened medical course.

* 13 Q.—DR. C. NATHAMUNI NAIDU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to introduce a shortened medical course in the Madras State;

(b) if so, the period of training and how the trainees will be designated;

(c) the minimum qualification prescribed for selection and the emoluments or scales of pay fixed for them after the training; and

(d) whether the Indian Medical Association has been consulted in this matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) to (d) In the meanwhile the Central Ministry of Health have suggested a scheme for training of workers for medical and health work in rural areas. Decision in regard to some short course will be taken in due course."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Is there any proposal to appoint junior medical officers called hospital assistants in State Service? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. The proposal is to create a new type of auxiliary personnel for medical and health work in rural areas."

Retention of non-clinical professors in service after superannuation.

* 14 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether non-clinical Professors in Madras Medical Service have been ordered by the Government to be retained in service till the age of 60 years; and

(b) whether the rule is applicable to cases where qualified assistants and probationers are available to replace the professors on their attaining the age of superannuation?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The Government have decided that the existing incumbents of the posts of non-clinical Professors should be re-employed up to the age of 60 years from the date of their superannuation, but that such re-employment should be made for a period of one year at a time subject to the physical fitness of the Professors concerned.

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" (b) None of the existing Assistant Professors has so far acquired any probationary rights in the professorial cadre. The answer to this clause is, however, in the affirmative."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether the Executive Committee of the Madras Medical Association expressed its views on this question and if so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Committee that went into the question of the improvement of the service conditions of medical officers in the non-clinical line has recommended an extension of the age of retirement up to 60 years. The general opinion in this country as well as in other countries is in favour of extending the age of retirement of the teaching staff, not only non-clinical but also clinical, because it is very difficult to get men with suitable qualifications and teaching experience for teaching work in our medical colleges."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Apart from the general question of raising the retirement age from 55 to 60, have the Government considered the injustice and discouragement caused to the Assistant Professors if extension of service or reemployment of retired professors were to be ordered when any vacancy occurs? " 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There can be no injustice. When the Assistant Professors get into the Professors' posts, they too may get the same concession."

Periods of work of First Grade Pandits in higher forms.

* 15 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state with reference to Legislative Council starred question No. 223 answered on 25th July 1953;

(a) whether the question of reducing the periods of work in higher forms in the case of First Grade Pandits has been considered; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter stands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) The question is still under consideration."

SRI G. KRISHNAMURTHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware of the fact that on account of the insistence on a particular number of periods of work in higher forms, what was given through the Government Order by the right hand has been taken away by the left hand? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That is why we are trying to consider with both the hands and do the needful." (Laughter.)